

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 02096 150117Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13  
OES-07 /053 W

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R 140901Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2442  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, NL (VAN SCHAIK, ROBERT JAN)

SUBJECT: NEW NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO KENYA

1. THE MFA ANNOUNCED THAT ROBERT JAN VAN SCHAIK IS THE NEW NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TO KENYA AND IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO UGANDA. HE WILL ALSO SERVE AS NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP) IN NAIROBI.

2. VAN SCHAIK WAS BORN MAY 4, 1927, IN EDE. HE HAS A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM, STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO (1953-54) AND TOOK A SPECIAL COURSE IN ECONOMICS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY (1970). HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER CHARLOTTE ZAAIJER.

3. AFTER LEAVING THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO IN 1954, VAN SCHAIK WORKED APPROXIMATELY A YEAR FOR HALLGARTEN & CO. IN NEW YORK AND THEN WAS WITH THE STORK RAILROAD WORKS IN UTRECHT UNTIL HE JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN 1957. HE HAS NEVER SERVED OVERSEAS EXCEPT ON ECONOMIC DELEGATIONS SUCH AS HEAD OF THE DUTCH REPRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE). WITHIN 16 YEARS HE ROSE TO POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC

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COOPERATION AFFAIRS WHERE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDED OECD, BENELUX, EFTA AND FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC MATTERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC). IN LATE 1973 HE BECAME PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THESE OVERALL DUTIES HE INSTRUCTED THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OECD.

4. DURING VAN SCHAIK'S TIME AT HARVARD HE TRAVELED TO CUBA FOR A SHORT VISIT. IN 1976 HE AND HIS WIFE TOOK A LONG VACATION IN THE US, INCLUDING AN AUTO TOUR THROUGH THE FAR WEST. QUIET AND SOMEWHAT RESERVED, HE IS HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND COMPETENT. HE IS ONE OF THE SENIOR EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND HAS WRITTEN ARTICLES ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS CORDIAL TO AMERICANS.

5. DURING JULY 1976, JUST AFTER NETHERLANDS ASSUMED SIX-MONTHS PRESIDENCY OF EC, VAN SCHAIK GAVE UP HIS VACATION AND ALMOST SINGLEHANDEDLY ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE HIS EC COLLEAGUES THAT A MORE CONCILIATORY STANCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO REASSURE LDC'S THAT CIEC DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WORTHWHILE. ALTHOUGH VAN SCHAIK'S LOBBYING DID NOT GET VERY FAR WITH EC, HE DID ESTABLISH HIS CREDENTIALS AS BEING A SINCERE ADVOCATE OF MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LDC'S IN NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS. THE KENYANS PROBABLY KNOW THIS AND THEY WILL FIND HIM INTELLIGENT AND SYMPATHETIC TO MANY OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL CAUSES.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, PINR, NL, (VAN SCHAIK, ROBERT JAN)  
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